

who spoke several speakers before me, who has such diametrically opposite views from mine, we were able to stand in this well exchanging these views. Neither one may be right and neither one may be completely wrong, but we have the freedom to do so and have those views expressed. That is government as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 7 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

JONNA LYNNE CULLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a special friend who sadly is fiercely battling this awful disease called cancer.

Jonna Lynne Cullen, J.L. as we call her, served in this House as a staff member from 1967 until 1981. I got to know her very well when she was my boss at the Office of Management and Budget. She headed the Office of Legislative Affairs and to everyone's recollection she probably is the first woman that ever headed that office working for President Reagan from 1981 until 1984.

Mr. Speaker, she was a special friend. She was back here on the back rail. Many Members of Congress from those years, as they came into office, really learned the ropes in terms of what was going on, her ability to understand legislation, to work with all Members on both sides of the aisle. And it was sort of interesting, when she came in 1967, she worked for then the chairman, the Democratic chairman of the Committee on Rules, Bill Colmer. TRENT LOTT was his administrative assistant.

And TRENT LOTT came into office, of course, later on and is now the majority leader in the Senate. I know as I have spoken with both TRENT LOTT and other Members of the House that have moved to the other body, whether it be OLYMPIA SNOWE, JIM JEFFORDS, a whole host of Members that served here, they would very much like to speak this afternoon but of course as Members of the other body they are unable to do so.

As I look around the floor today and we have adjourned with legislative business, I have a number of my colleagues that are anxious to catch their planes and go back, but I wanted to recognize them in this hour that I have.

First, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the very distinguished chairman of the

Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON].

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding to me. I thank him for taking out this special order. I want to take this opportunity to wish our friend, Jonna Lynne Cullen our very best because I join with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] in recognizing J.L. as a truly remarkable lady.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she lies in bed fighting an ongoing bout with cancer. But we do extend our love and best wishes to her for a speedy victory over that dreaded disease. Jonna Lynne's accomplishments here on the Hill and in the Reagan Office of Management and Budget in the early 1980's are well known. She came to the Committee on Rules as a teenager some time ago.

Mr. Speaker, I met her when she was on the staff of TRENT LOTT from Mississippi. His district was neighboring mine and we had that natural southern affinity. And in fact I guess I am wearing the right suit for this effort because she was a true southerner, represented the grace and charm and dignity of the Deep South and yet the calm efficiency as well of a lady that knew her way around Capitol Hill and with open and friendly manner literally could get anything done in Congress and throughout Washington, DC.

She served for many years as a staffer here in Congress. Her expertise and her talents and her dynamic personality won her the respect and admiration of many Members on both sides of the aisle. Those talents and abilities were tapped by OMB Director Dave Stockman during President Reagan's first term where she served as head of legislative affairs for OMB. And in fact J.L.'s knowledge of the Hill and her terrific relationships with so many Members of the staff were invaluable assets to the Reagan budget team. She played a pivotal role in garnering congressional support for the Reagan tax cuts and the budget plans that led to the greatest sustained peacetime economic expansion in this century.

Jonna Lynne Cullen was not your average liaison official. Her influence with the House and her abundant talent won her the trust of the most senior Members of the Reagan and Bush administrations. The real reason we rise to pay tribute to her transcends her accomplishments on the Hill and down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. We here honor a woman who never for one moment took her life for granted. She was a painter. She was a traveler. She was a gourmet chef. She most importantly has been a fighter and a fierce patriot whose love of America drove her to share our Nation's dreams and ideals with people across the globe.

She is a lady who, when faced with breast cancer, refused to just give up but poured her energy into helping others. The American Cancer Society was

one of the chief beneficiaries of her time and her passion and her efforts, notwithstanding all of the other many demands on her time.

When she thought she had cancer beat, she not only continued her efforts on behalf of the American Cancer Society but she traveled worldwide, teaching and encouraging women in Latin America, Russia, and other emerging nations to reach out for success. She was an ambassador of entrepreneurship and excellence and a beacon to women around the world who never imagined that they had the ability to achieve success.

Today we think of Jonna Lynne Cullen who by sheer force of will has refused to give in to cancer. I last saw her a few weeks ago when she came to a reception on behalf of Blanquita Cullem who is a radio personality here in Washington. And there was Jonna Lynne with her Raggedy Ann red wig because she was going through chemotherapy and just brightly showing off that she was fighting every inch of the way.

She continues that fight and, as she lies in bed, she is still struggling against that dreaded disease. Her courage is an inspiration to all of us. We wish her well. We wish her success. We wish her victory in that fight. Keep on fighting, Jonna Lynne. We love you.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for taking this special order. There will be a number of Members who will speak about their recollections of J.L. I do not want to catalog her many achievements. I would much rather provide a personal profile.

I had not planned to come to the House of Representatives. I enjoyed what I was doing out in California. I was at that time in the State legislature and was on a faculty of the local college.

The incumbent Congressman died, had a heart attack after the primary. There was a special convention that was convened which placed me on the ballot to come back here if I were successful in November. I had not gone through a primary. I had not gone to the Kennedy schools. I literally knew no one. And when I was elected in November 1978, I was amazed at how many of the 77 classmates that came back in the 96th Congress had some connection or relationship. They were either on a Member's staff, their family had been involved in politics, their relatives were involved or they indeed had worked in the private sector that was directly involved. And I had had no involvement whatsoever. So I walked onto the floor about as green a freshman as we can ever imagine.

Sitting in the back row was a woman who already knew about me. She asked me to sit down. And J.L. began to explain to me who was who and how the place worked and what I should and